

**Minutes of a Virtual Meeting of Stanford Dingley Parish Council held on
Monday 18th January 2021 at 7.30pm.**

Present: Cllr. H. Fullerton (Chairman); Cllr. C. Dent; Cllr. A. Bucknell; Cllr. E. Hanrahan; Cllr. C. Plank; District Cllr. G. Pask; Mrs. H. Pratt (Clerk).

Parishioners: Mr. B. Pottier, Mr. O. Brooke and Mr. R. Balcock.

1 Public Session.

1.1 Concern was raised about the increase in traffic through the village, particularly delivery vans. Both verges and property have been damaged as a result. The rain washes the debris from the verges into the drains and appears to have blocked some of the storm drains. Tractors are not helping the situation.

It was reported that damage is occurring to the newly resurfaced sections of road (sections are slipping into the ditch); it is thought this is the result of farm vehicles.

Cllr. Plank commented that farm vehicles and equipment are getting bigger and bigger, but she will talk to the tractor drivers.

Cllr. Hanrahan commented that there are not so many speeding tractors as there were, but commented on the unofficial signs encouraging people to slow down. He also asked what had happened to exploring the option of improving byway STAN 1/3 for the use of farm traffic. Cllr. Dent will pursue this and carry out an initial survey and obtain possible costs. Willie Hartley Russell is the landowner and would need to give his consent.

2 Apologies.

There were no apologies for absence.

3 Declaration of Interests.

3.1 Declarations of Interest in Agenda Items.

There were no declarations of interest in any agenda items.

4 Minutes of last meeting:

4.1 Parish Council meeting on Monday 2nd November 2020.

It was resolved that the minutes of the meeting of Stanford Dingley Parish Council (SDPC) held on Monday 2nd November 2020 were an accurate account of the meeting and they will be signed by Cllr. Fullerton.

5 Management of Parish Council Assets.

5.1 The Club Room.

The green waste behind the Club Room still needs to be removed; Cllr. Hanrahan will do this.

Mr. Brooke has replaced the tiles on the roof which he can reach. A quote needs to be obtained for replacing the existing missing tiles. The Clerk will send Mr. Pottier details of a roofer.

Mr. Pottier reported that the Club Room has had little use due to the pandemic, but has been used to host BTEC exams for a parishioner.

Cllr. Fullerton reported that he had put the noticeboard from Saffron House Barn behind the Club Room; Mr. Pottier will put it in the shed with the two flood warning signs which Cllr. Bucknell currently has.

5.2 The Village Field.

The dog training which was being held in the Village Field has now been suspended due to the pandemic.

The old pallets and leaves still need to be removed; Cllr. Plank will talk to Jem Plank and ask him to take them away. There had been a thought that this year's leaf fall should be taken at the same time, but the leaves haven't been collected. Mr. Pottier asked about the

possibility of asking Olly Morris to remove the material. Cllr. Fullerton will liaise with the Planks and possibly ask Olly Morris.

5.3 The Village Green.

The Clerk reported that the litter bin on the Green and the dog waste bin at the entrance to the Village Field are now being emptied once a fortnight by Triangle Management Co. Ltd. Cllr. Bucknell was thanked for obtaining a quote to regularly “feed and weed” the Village Green; the quote was felt to be too expensive.

Fox fencing are currently working on the fencing next to the footpath across the Green. Cllr. Bucknell has asked Dean (Fox Fencing) to quote to put gravel on the path to tidy it up. Quotes for the replacement oak posts still need to be obtained.

6 Planning.

6.1 Planning applications sent to SDPC for consultation:

6.1.1 **20/02905/FUL – Severalls Farm.**

Erection of 2 no cattle sheds.

It was agreed the SDPC has **no objection** to this application. A parishioner has asked if some trees could be planted between the road and the cattle sheds.

6.2 Planning decisions made by WBC:

6.2.1 **20/02305/HOUSE - Brambles.**

Planning approval for two storey extension to Eastern elevation as per lapsed permission 16/02913/HOUSE.

SDPC **supported** this application which has been **approved** by WBC.

6.2.2 **20/01581/HOUSE – Little Shambles.**

Ground level swimming pool with automatic safety cover surrounded by natural stone paving. Plant to be housed in existing shed. Pool to be heated by air source heat pump.

SDPC **supported** this application which has been **approved** by WBC.

6.2.3 Planning decisions made on appeal:

6.2.4 **19/02522/FUL – Church View Barn.**

The demolition of the existing stable block and the construction of a three-bay replacement garage building with adjoining log store, alongside associated parking, access and landscaping works and the change of use of the land to a residential use.

An amendment moving the proposed garage to the same position as the existing stable block was submitted to WBC.

SDPC **objected** to the original application, but had **no objection** to the amended application. WBC **refused** the application which was subsequently taken to appeal. The inspector has **upheld** the appeal, therefore **approving** the application.

7 Parish Census.

Cllr. Fullerton thanked Cllr. Hanrahan and Rosie for the work they have done on producing a draft of the census. Other members of SDPC were thanked for their input.

Cllr. Hanrahan commented that the planning questions need to be more carefully worded, such that they are not triggers for (or against) particular developments.

The aim is that those who have online access will respond online; notification of the census will be via email and the various Whatsapp groups. A judgement needs to be made about who to deliver paper copies to.

Ideally, the next draft of the questions will be available by the end of January 2021.

8 Sewer Flooding.

Cllr. Fullerton has sent the letter about the sewer flooding issues to the CEO of Thames Water with copies being sent to Laura Ferris MP and District Cllr. Pask. Copies will be sent to Environmental Health at WBC and the EA.

There was a small amount of flooding in December. The rain forecast over the next few days might pose a risk. Some storm drains are believed to be blocked; particularly the ones

between Manor Farm and Brook House. Mr. Brooke and Mr. Pottier will carry out an inspection of storm drains and report any obvious issues to WBC for resolution.

Cllr. Fullerton will report the blocked drains on Back Lane.

9 Digitisation of records.

Cllr. Bucknell reported that she has photographs of the archives held by Anne Chessum. From these, the number of lever arch folders requiring scanning can be calculated. In addition to the archives at Anne Chessum's there are Stuart Logan's records and Peter Trentham's records on the Pang. Cllr. Bucknell will obtain a quote for the scanning with indexing.

There was some question about what to do with the records once they have been scanned; Berkshire Records Office and West Berkshire Museum were both considered possibilities.

10 Clerk's Report.

10.1 To receive the financial statement dated 18th January 2021.

The Clerk reported that the following payment has been made since the last meeting:

Post Office Ltd	£61.54	SSE (1/9/2020 – 31/11/2020)
C. B. Heslop & Co. Ltd	£18.00	Payroll
Triangle Management Co. Ltd	£24.00	December bin emptying.
Helen Pratt	£776.00	July – December 2020 salary.

Once all transactions have cleared the balance in the account will be £11,814.58 which reconciles to the bank statement dated the 30th October 2020 showing a balance of £10,226.18. Stanford Dingley Events Committee have made a payment to SDPC of £2,667.94, this being 50% of the cost of the fencing and entrance work to the Village field and rent for hire of the Club Room and the Village Field. The Clerk will transfer £6,000 from the Treasurers Account to the Business Instant Account.

10.2 Finances for FY2021/22.

10.2.1 Budget for FY21/22.

The budget and expenditure for the current year were considered against budget figures for FY 21/22. The budget was approved (see attached).

It was suggested that given the electricity costs for the Club Room, it might be beneficial to run a dehumidifier or small heater on a timer each day. Cllr. Hanrahan will explore the options.

Appreciation was extended to Mr. Pottier for the income the Events Committee has generated for the Village Field and the Club Room.

10.2.2 Precept for FY21/22.

It was unanimously agreed that the precept will remain at £5,000 for the coming year.

11 Reports.

11.1 District Councillor's Report.

District Cllr. Pask reported that there are currently two major consultations taking place: the emerging Local Plan which contains development sites through until 2037, and the Minerals and Waste Plan. Development sites in the Local Plan include a site to the NE of Thatcham for 2,500 homes and a site off Stretton Close in Bradfield for approximately 20 homes.

Refuse collection in West Berkshire has been maintained during the pandemic, however, there will be no green bin collections for the next two weeks due to staff shortages.

District Cllr. Pask encouraged anyone aware of issues to report them promptly to WBC; they are being dealt with. Cllr. Fullerton commented on two potholes he reported which were temporarily filled within three days.

Sallie Jennings from the Rights of Way team at WBC will be carrying out an inspection of footpath STAN 27/1, past the end of the blue pools, but it was noted that the footpath is on a springline.

11.2 Stanford Dingley Events Committee.

The Events Team will be a meeting later this month, however due to the pandemic there are no planned events. There might be the possibility of doing something virtually.

11.3 Dredge Gang.

It was agreed that this winter's leaf fall will be left, but in future years the leaves will be collected. The Dredge Gang will be carrying out an inspection of the drains.

11.4 Tree planting in the parish.

It was agreed that there is too much uncertainty at the present time to make plans to plant trees this spring. It was agreed that a plan would be put in place, post the pandemic, hopefully to plant trees in October.

Cllr. Hanrahan commented that different parishioners have different ideas on where any trees should be planted. It is understood that there are lots of new grants becoming available for the planting of trees. This item will be on the agenda for the meeting in March.

11.5 Public Rights of Way.

It was agreed that carrying out an audit of the Rights of Way markers in the parish would be a good idea. The Clerk will obtain maps from WBC with the rights of way markers shown.

12 **Round Table Comments.**

12.1 Christmas Gifts for Helpers.

It was agreed that Cllr. Bucknell pass the receipt for Christmas gifts to the Clerk for payment.

12.2 Litter Picking.

Mr. Pottier thanked Cllr. Fullerton for litter picking at the Bucklebury Road/Back Lane end of the village. Once the pandemic is over, it would be good to have a litter picking event similar to the 'Clean for the Queen' event held previously.

12.3 Website.

The Clerk asked for details of how to access the website to add the information on the November and January meetings. Cllr. Bucknell will compile the instructions and send them to the Clerk.

13 **Date of next meetings: Monday 1st March 2021 at 7.30pm.**

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 8.45pm.

Signed:

Date:

Stanford Dingley Parish Council

Budget for FY 21/22

	Budget FY17/18	Actual 17/18	Budget FY18/19	Actual 18/19	Budget FY19/20	Actual 19/20	Budget FY2021	To 18/1/2021	Expected EoY	Proposed budget FY21/22
Audit Fee	200.00	200.00	200.00	-	-	-	-	50.00	50.00	100.00
Clerk's Salary	1,500.00	1,459.24	2,000.00	1,463.46	2,000.00	1,504.20	2,000.00	1,504.00	1,504.00	1,500.00
Clerk's Reimbursements	20.00	-	20.00	-	20.00	42.44	20.00	-	15.00	20.00
Insurance (includes Club Room)	500.00	457.18	500.00	461.57	500.00	483.35	500.00	488.53	488.53	500.00
Payroll	60.00	45.50	50.00	47.00	50.00	45.00	50.00	30.00	40.00	50.00
Village Green	200.00	-	250.00	-	100.00	100.00	100.00	-	-	200.00
Village Field	350.00	125.00	500.00	317.84	2,000.00	195.72	2,200.00	3,313.05	3,313.05	500.00
Admin/Contingency	200.00	83.05	200.00	269.47	200.00	190.36	200.00	-	-	200.00
Grit bins and bin emptying	-	-	-	-	-	-	170.00	20.00	170.00	200.00
Election Expenses	-	-	-	-	100.00	-	-	75.00	75.00	-
Website/IT	200.00	-	50.00	68.69	75.00	482.97	150.00	485.06	485.06	100.00
Training	80.00	-	100.00	-	250.00	-	100.00	-	-	100.00
Log Tangle	-	2,685.00	500.00	66.50	75.00	68.50	75.00	68.50	68.50	75.00
Defibrillator	-	82.16	-	-	50.00	65.90	100.00	-	100.00	100.00
Annual Subscriptions										
S.L.C.C.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
B.A.L.C.	50.00	45.48	50.00	47.33	65.00	48.08	55.00	50.17	50.17	55.00
C.P.R.E.	46.00	36.00	36.00	36.00	36.00	36.00	36.00	36.00	36.00	36.00
C.C.B.	30.00	30.00	30.00	25.00	25.00	-	25.00	-	25.00	140.00
CBAS	155.00	-	155.00	-	-	250.83	155.00	-	155.00	-
PVFF	-	-	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	200.00	-	200.00	100.00
Club Room										
Rates	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Cleaning	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Electricity	175.00	344.87	600.00	844.86	500.00	541.02	700.00	153.72	200.00	300.00
Maintenance	60.00	-	-	-	-	120.00	-	-	200.00	200.00
S.137 PAYMENTS										
Library contribution to WBC	195.00	-	195.00	195.00	195.00	195.00	195.00	200.00	200.00	200.00
WBCS	200.00	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Bradfield PCC (NewsLink)	50.00	-	50.00	-	50.00	50.00	50.00	-	50.00	50.00
Total	4,271.00	5,593.48	5,586.00	3,942.72	6,391.00	4,519.37	7,081.00	6,474.03	7,425.31	4,726.00
TOTAL	9,271.00	20,616.08		4,509.31	6,391.00	4,596.37	7,081.00	6,474.03	7,425.31	4,726.00
VAT paid	1,500.00	3,460.29		247.76	300.00	275.03	125.00	700.59	720.00	275.00
Grand Total	10,771.00	24,076.37		4,757.07	6,691.00	4,871.40	7,206.00	7,174.62	8,145.31	5,001.00
Income										
Precept		5,000.00		5,000.00		5,000.00		5,000.00	5,000.00	5,000.00
Donations		2,685.00		-		-		-	-	-
Donations/Grants for the Clubroom		500.00		86.70		-		100.00	100.00	-
Village Field/Clubroom lettings		190.00		235.00		150.00		1,011.42	1,011.42	-
Grant for IT equipment		1,460.00		-		-		-	-	-
Events Committee donations								1,656.52	1,656.52	-
VAT reclaim		-		963.68		1,104.08		3,367.65	3,367.65	-
Interest		-		0.24		0.24		-	-	-
		9,835.00		6,285.62		6,254.32		11,135.59	11,135.59	5,000.00